

THE MOONSHINERS' HOME.

The Picturesque and Vineyard Hills of Floyd County.

HOW BLOCKADE WHISKY IS MADE.

The Brass and Hub of a Typical Moonshiner Distiller—Enormous Quantities of Whisky, "Corn Juice."

PIZZARRO, FLOYD COUNTY, VA., Dec. 14.—Special.—In these no day days it is no easy task for the uninitiated to readily believe the existence in this civilized county—the first in the State to erect public school buildings—of the methods, modes and manufacture of illicit whisky to the extent they really exist.

Among all the lovely regions, picturesque and beautiful, that are scattered along the Appalachian range of mountains, from the mountains of New England to the wide savannas of the South, can there be found a more enchanting spot than this region?

No statistics have ever been compiled concerning the quantity of this crude but potent article of whisky that is made and disposed of in this region, but it is something enormous. The price of corn, from which several this liquid essence is manufactured, is at this time about 50 per cent. higher in this section than at the towns along the railroads, twenty or thirty miles distant.

Distillers are all at work, and their numbers are in full blast, the mill fall being very favorable to their successful operation. During the latter part of summer and in the early fall, work is done, but when the leaves are gathered, and when the leaves of the dense forests that usually surround the still-houses, as lately clothed in their verdant foliage, have been touched by the magic wand of autumn, and changed into crimson and gold, the work of the whisky and waxy moonshiner begins in earnest, and many a dark and arduous scheme that he uses.

The typical manufacturer of the blockade spirit, as is known by such appellations as "Mountain dew," "Hasten-top," "Moonshine," etc., is rough and uncouth in appearance, as well as in manners. And although he is, according to his own theory, a "free trader" and "upright," and, in local parlance, "means well," it is doubtful if he ever heard of the Holy Eucharist or the baptismal font.

His usual dress is homespun trousers, his winter blouse, in summer top linen, tucked in, high-top cow-leather boots, a red flannel hunting shirt and a white wool hat. He wears no beard, except a little tuft of whiskers on his chin somewhat resembling that of a Billy Goat.

The grain which is to be manufactured into whisky is usually carried to mill to be ground into meal, on the back of a horse or steer, by a small boy. This boy, early drilled in ways of deceit, will tell any curious inquirer that the grain is to be chopped for the use of the stock, when it is well known in the community that the only stock possessed by the miller is, perhaps, one long-horned cow, and a few tapering-necked swine of the favorite razor-backed brand. Yet no remarks are made in the community on this subject, as public opinion is largely in sympathy with the distiller and vendor of moonshine, and, indeed, it would not be safe to criticize his actions.

The distillery is generally a rude log cabin, often a mere shed, containing the still and eight or ten tubs, in which to ferment the mash. With the rough audience in possession of the blockade, one bushel of corn will make only two or two and a-half gallons of liquor, but tobacco stems, hickory ashes, roots of the wild cherry and the bark of the cottonwood, called stagerweed, are commonly added in large quantities, and the amount of whisky made from a bushel of grain correspondingly increased. Of the large quantity of the rank, pungent and ill-smelling whisky that deal of it is used in house consumption, a native mountaineer, if his constitution is good, always consumes from one to three pints daily himself, and generally leading it out to his family and to any guests who may find their way to his rude domicile. The remainder is hauled in wagons, as well as carried on horse-back and by men on foot, to various points along the Norfolk and Western and other lines of railroads, favorite markets being Roanoke, Danville, Salem, Christiansburg and Radford.

THE BATTERING DOKE. Whisky is often bartered by the moonshiner to local "storekeepers" for merchandise of various kinds, and the merchant, who seldom goes through the formality of procuring license, holds to his customers.

It is often claimed by the merchants that the revenue they derive from the sale of whisky is greater than the legitimate profit on merchandise. Very little effort is made by the United States internal revenue officers to stop the manufacture and sale of the contraband liquor in this section of the State, and it is asserted that various officers of the Government have a pretty fair understanding with the moonshiner. Neither of the great political parties have managed the official patronage of the manufacture of mountain dew has flourished like a green bay tree.

FRUIT ABUNDANT. This being one of the best fruit counties in the State and the fruit brandy being comparatively lax, the distiller of fruit ostensibly conducts his business in a legal manner. He is allowed by the Government to operate his machinery at pleasure, and his monthly report usually shows that he worked only on those days when the United States gauger visited his place. These visits occur from one to three times per month. In this way he makes a large quantity of brandy that is not reported, and which is often sold for less money than the amount of the Government tax.

DR. SHIELDS' SUCCESSOR. Believed That No Assistant Physician Will Be Chosen for the Eastern Hospital.

Train 74, Chesapeake and Ohio railway, was injured this morning a few miles west of here while coupling cars. He went between two freight cars to make a coupling next to the engine, and was caused to pass out his left clavicle was broken, and was otherwise hurt. He was brought here and put in care of Dr. R. A. Wise, who set the broken bone. He remained here until the afternoon, when he was much improved, and returned to his home in Richmond.

PEIKERSBURG MATTERS.

Election of Officers of the Grays—Close of the Public Schools for the Holidays. PETERSBURG, VA., Dec. 15.—Special. Eureka Lodge, No. 54, Knights of Pythias, of this city, will give their annual banquet on the evening of the 9th of next month. The address on the occasion will be made by Mr. W. H. Jones, Commonwealth's Attorney. There will be vocal music by Mrs. William B. Hill and other ladies, and also by a quartette. The instrumental music will be furnished by a band.

Rev. Ellis Watts and Rev. H. M. Hope will deliver addresses to-morrow afternoon before the colored Young Men's Christian Association. A building is being erected on Cox's road, in Dinwiddie county, a short distance from Petersburg. It is expected to have the building roofed in shortly.

The following officers of the Petersburg Grays have been elected and appointed: Captain, F. P. Heath; First Lieutenant, James Weddell; Second Lieutenant, W. A. Bond.

The public schools of Petersburg will close on next Friday for the Christmas holidays. Water from the new reservoir will be turned on early in January. The pipes have nearly all been laid.

In the Mayor's Court this morning Sergeant R. Chandler and Officer R. F. Hagland, of the police force, were each fined \$2 and costs for fighting in front of the police station a few nights ago. Before the difficulty occurred, Officer Hagland surrounded and started to Chief Chandler.

Mr. E. N. Griffin is in the city. Dr. J. S. Williams, of Prince George County, and Mr. John P. Branch, of Richmond, were in the city to-day.

BUCK AT THE SHIP YARDS. A Large Force Employed at Newport News Assailed by an Officer. NEWPORT NEWS, VA., Dec. 15.—Special.—The number of men employed at the shipyard now is greater than any time for several months past. At any time will be added by the time the steamship work will be added together with that expected, is very extensive.

An atmosphere of confidence has begun to pervade business circles, and if present indications are borne out, 1895 will be a prosperous year for Newport News. A number of buildings are going up, and extensive improvements are being made in several quarters.

John Morgan, a negro who lives at Deep Creek, was shot in the right arm here this afternoon by Officer Perry. The negro had been arrested for creating a disturbance in a store, and was being taken to jail when he broke away, knocked the officer down, and then, through his hand behind his back as if he intended to shoot. It was then that Officer Perry fired to save his life, he says. After being shot, Morgan again eluded the officer and ran some distance. He was finally brought to a halt by Justice R. Anderson, who arrested him. His injuries are not serious.

Rev. W. A. Campbell, D. D., of Richmond, agent of the Virginia Bible Society, will address a union meeting in the First Methodist church in this city to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Mr. George Tighe, of this city, left here yesterday for Norfolk, to accept the position of engineer on the York River and Chesapeake Bay, which started on to-day with the well-known men, for an extensive hunting trip.

J. A. Massey, a young attorney who recently came here from Kappahannock, qualified before Judge Peck yesterday to practice in the Water Cure courts.

MILLER & RHOADS

Broad Street Between Fifth and Sixth.

Christmas is nigh. We blow our Holiday Horn and repeat to doubtful buyers that our system of retailing is characteristic of our house, lots of pretty things for everybody, though you needn't spend much for them.

Beginning TO-MORROW we'll show the people of Richmond and vicinity that our prices cannot be duplicated for same class of Xmas Goods.

DRESS GOODS. A gala week in this department. The usual holiday rush seizes our Dress-Goods counters. The prices right now cannot and never will be repeated again. Your chance is NOW: buy that dress NOW, as it will not involve much money.

There's nothing more acceptable than a beautiful Imported Dress Pattern for Xmas. See what we have.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE. THE CLOSING QUOTATIONS OF MONEY.

Offerings and Sales at the Richmond Tobacco Exchange—Internal Revenue Collections—Foreign Advances.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The sales at the stock market to-day were \$3,622,242, of which \$3,200 were Sugar. The trading was mainly of a professional character, and most changes, except in a few instances, were unimportant.

STOCK QUOTATIONS. Closing Bids. American Cotton Oil preferred, 69 1/2.

LOUDBON A DRY COUNTY. Results of Thursday's Election—The Activity of the Ladies.

LEESBURG, VA., Dec. 15.—Special.—The most exciting election that has been held here for several years was held in Loudoun district under the local option law Thursday. "Against license" carried by 53 majority, Leesburg giving 62 majority dry and Goresville precinct 21 majority. A very heavy vote was polled in 188 after the first day of May, there will be no legal sale of liquor within any district of Loudoun county. The other districts went "dry" years ago.

SIX PRISONERS ESCAPE. Wholesale Jail Delivery in Halifax—The Murderer Easley One of the Liberated.

TOYS. A gala week in this department. Santa's pack opens to the public an enormous line at prices—well—you know they're cheap.

COATS. A gala week in this department. Ladies' Black Beaver Coat, 34 inches long, for \$5 00.

LINENS. A gala week in this department. 18x37 Red and Blue Damask Towels, excellent ones, \$1 24.

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THE TOWER, JULIUS SYCOLE & SONS, 201 and 203 E. BROAD.

This year the Holiday finds us better equipped than ever to suit the taste of our discriminating trade. Our buyers have been busy for months preparing for the Holidays. You will find useful and ornamental presents displayed on our counters.

OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL XMAS. TOYS. We have too many toys to list about. Always enjoy the reputation of carrying the most complete stock of toys, our basement is brilliant with Santa Claus.

SILVERWARE. Novelties in this Department comprising useful and ornamental presents. Silver Cups, Silver Pin Trays, Silver Match Boxes, Silver Jewelry Boxes, Silver Baskets, Silver Card Receivers, Silver Soup Tureens, Silver Spoon Frames, Silver Whisk Frooms, Silver Ice Sets, Silver Service, Silver Butter Dishes, Silver Fudding Dishes, Silver Nut Pickers, Silver Paper Weights, Silver Paper Boxes, Silver Cologne Bottles, Silver Stamp Boxes, Silver Bon Bons, Silver Phaving Caps, Silver Forks, Silver Spoons, etc.

HANDKERCHIEFS. Handsomely Embroidered Handkerchiefs, Handsomely Embroidered Handkerchiefs.

Real Duchesse Lace Handkerchiefs, Price \$25 and \$38. NOVELTIES IN JEWELRY. Solid Gold Rings, warranted six years, \$1.50. Silver Watches, \$1.50.

OPEN EVENINGS UNTIL XMAS, Cor. Second and Broad. R. H. BOSHER'S SONS, CARRIAGE MANUFACTURERS. Call and see our large stock of VICTORIAS, PHAETONS, BUGGIES and CARRS. The Best and Cheapest in the city, considering the quality of the work. Repairing and Reupholstering done in the best manner. 15 S. NINTH ST., RICHMOND, VA.